

Moreover, Penn State is now home to the largest stadium in the United States, honoring POW/MIA service-members with a chair of honor that will forever remain empty honoring those brave Americans who never returned home.

To Penn State University and the community members who have made this week possible, thank you for your work. We are Penn State.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS FOR TEXAS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the billions of dollars coming to Texas to provide clean water and to weatherize our power grid.

In just the past year and a half, my district has faced a devastating winter storm and a massive pipe burst that put lives at risk. These two events, pictured beside me, demonstrate a simple truth. We are long past due for investments that modernize our electric grid and restore our aging water systems.

That is why I am proud that the infrastructure bill will invest \$3.5 billion to prepare power grids for weather emergencies and bring \$2.9 billion directly to Texas for clean water. Thanks to this funding, communities like mine will benefit from clean water, reliable power, and peace of mind.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Thursday, November 18, in honor of National Rural Health Day. My home State of Mississippi is leading the way in rural healthcare innovation, which is important because 54 percent of our State's population lives in rural areas. Thanks to a strong network of hospitals served by dedicated healthcare providers, as well as a world-class telehealth system anchored by the University of Mississippi Medical Center, patients in Mississippi can receive the care they need in their communities.

I am proud of the partnership between two universities in my district to improve health outcomes in rural communities across our State. The University of Mississippi Medical Center, our State's only academic medical center, and Mississippi State University, with its land grant mission and extension expertise, are partnering on critical healthcare and public health challenges and are working together to meet the healthcare needs of their fellow Mississippians.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mississippi's role in advancing rural healthcare and the selfless service of our healthcare providers.

BUILDING BACK GREEN

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues for acting to tackle the climate crisis. Under President Biden's leadership, we are celebrating America's efforts to combat our world's largest existential threat: global warming.

Last week, Speaker PELOSI led a diverse group of House Democrats to Glasgow, Scotland. I was part of that group, the COP 26 conference, and our message was clear. The U.S. is proud to be back in the Paris Agreement and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to reach net-zero emissions.

Our commitment was met by action, not only with the agreements that were struck during the conference, but also the sound policies included in the Build Back Better Act. The framework's \$555 billion investment represents the largest single investment in our clean energy economy in history. This includes buildings, transportation, industry, electricity, agriculture, and climate-smart practices across lands and waters.

As an environmental justice policy, the Justice40 acknowledges decades of environmental burdens on Black, Brown, and indigenous communities. Upholding this policy is vital to guarantee that communities that have weathered the costs of climate change finally receive commonsense human rights.

Let's build back better. Let's build back green.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the rising costs that are crushing hardworking families.

Last week, it was reported that inflation hit a 30-year high. This is a hidden tax on every American that is making your paycheck worth less. Americans are paying more for everything, from groceries, to utilities, to filling up the gas tank.

The cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent; utilities up 28 percent; and everyday grocery items, like eggs, milk, and chicken, are all significantly higher.

These numbers have real consequences for not only Orange County families I represent, but nationwide. We need to get our spending under control or these problems will only continue to get worse.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to fight against these policies that are making life for Americans more expensive.

OVERDOSE DEATHS REACH RECORD HIGH

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we got horrible news yesterday; for the first time in the United States, over 100,000 people died from illegal drugs. When I got here 6 years ago, that number was 47,000. By comparison, in 12 years, only 58,000 died in the Vietnam War. Almost twice as many people die in this country every year from illegal drug overdose than died in the entire 12-year period of the Vietnam War.

Today, we look at a major bill, the Build Back Better Act, and we look at what is the effect of the Build Back Better Act on 100,000 deaths. In this bill, we are encouraging more illegal immigration; we are taking more Border Patrol agents off the border and processing young people. And finally, in this bill we are encouraging more people to come here, which inevitably means more fentanyl, more deaths.

Madam Speaker, I ask the majority party to please step back, change the bill to add a few more Border Patrol agents, and change the bill to get out the carrots that are going to encourage more fentanyl and more deaths.

VACCINE MANDATE CONCERNS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I come to the House floor to speak on behalf of business owners and employees and healthcare providers, including employees at Cookeville Regional Medical Center who are concerned about President Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandate.

If the Biden administration mandate is allowed to take effect, there is a strong possibility that Cookeville Regional Medical Center, the hospital in my hometown where I was born and where my two sons were born, will not have the staff necessary to carry on normal operations.

The Biden administration's plan to mandate vaccines will devastate medical facilities throughout the country. Let me be clear. President Biden's mandates on medical facilities will dramatically exacerbate the current medical worker shortage in my State and in my district.

While I encourage everyone to consult with their doctors and consider joining me in being vaccinated, it is not the Federal Government's place, under the current circumstances, to mandate a vaccine. That is why I am calling on President Biden to end his indiscriminate vaccine mandate.

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INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S FUTURE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, we are at critical crossroads as we work to recover after the health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic here at home and around the world.

As we look to our future, we are going to build back better to create an economy that works for every American and all families that leaves no one behind. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the lives of millions of Americans by reducing costs for everything from prescription drugs to childcare; creating good-paying union jobs by addressing the urgency of the climate crisis; cutting taxes for working families; and making sure that none of these investments add to the deficit by making the wealthiest individuals and largest corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this investment in our Nation's future.

FREEDOM TO VOTE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, over the last couple of months, hundreds of individuals have come to Washington from all over the country to protest the lack of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Act, and, as well, the Freedom to Vote Act.

Freedom to Vote and John Robert Lewis voting laws are the underpinnings of this great Nation. It exemplifies the beginning of the Constitution, that we were created to create a more perfect Union. It underlies the elimination of slavery, the right to vote for all people, and due process.

We must move these important, crucial legislative initiatives that are more than laws; they are the very heart of this Nation.

The Senate must move. It must move now.

More people are coming. They will be arrested, and they are insisting that we move.

I am ready—I know we are, this House under Democratic leadership—to pass both bills. We seek this legislation now. We cannot wait.

People want to vote, and they want to vote safely, and they want to end the big lie. Let's vote.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2021, at 9:46 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5142

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 774, I call up the bill (H.R. 5376) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 774, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-18, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 117-173, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5376

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 10001. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term “insular area” has the meaning given such term in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

(2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

Subtitle B—Forestry

SEC. 11001. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM RESTORATION AND FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2031—

(1) \$10,000,000,000 for hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System land within the wildland-urban interface;

(2) \$4,000,000,000 for, on a determination made solely by the Secretary that hazardous fuels reduction projects within the wildland-urban interface described in paragraph (1) have been planned to protect, to the extent practicable, at-risk communities, hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System land outside the wildland-urban interface that are—

(A) primarily noncommercial in nature, provided that, in accordance with the best available science, the harvest of merchantable materials shall be ecologically appropriate for restoration and to enhance ecological health and function, and any sale of merchantable materials under this paragraph shall be limited to small diameter trees or biomass that are a by-product of hazardous fuel reduction projects;

(B) collaboratively developed; and

(C) carried out in a manner that enhances the ecological integrity and achieves the restoration of a forest ecosystem; maximizes the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type; and prioritizes prescribed fire as the primary means to achieve modified wildland fire behavior;

(3) \$1,000,000,000 for vegetation management projects carried out solely on National Forest System land that the Secretary shall select following the receipt of proposals submitted in accordance with subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303);

(4) \$400,000,000 for vegetation management projects on National Forest System land carried out in accordance with a water source management plan or a watershed protection and restoration action plan;

(5) \$400,000,000 for vegetation management projects on National Forest System land that—
(A) maintain, or contribute toward the restoration of, reference old growth characteristics, including structure, composition, function, and connectivity;

(B) prioritize small diameter trees and prescribed fire to modify fire behavior; and

(C) maximize the retention of large trees, as appropriate for the forest type;

(6) \$450,000,000 for the Legacy Roads and Trails program of the Forest Service;

(7) \$350,000,000 for National Forest System land management planning and monitoring, prioritized on the assessment of watershed, ecological, and carbon conditions on National Forest System land and the revision and amendment of older land management plans that present opportunities to protect, maintain, restore, and monitor ecological integrity, ecological conditions for at-risk species, and carbon storage;

(8) \$100,000,000 for maintenance of trails on National Forest System land, with a priority on trails that provide to underserved communities access to National Forest System land;

(9) \$100,000,000 for capital maintenance and improvements on National Forest System land, with a priority on maintenance level 3, 4, and 5 roads and improvements that restore ecological integrity and conditions for at-risk species;

(10) \$100,000,000 to provide for more efficient and more effective environmental reviews by the Chief of the Forest Service in satisfying the obligations of the Chief of the Forest Service under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 through 4370m-12);

(11) \$50,000,000 to develop and carry out activities and tactics for the protection of older and mature forests on National Forest System land, including completing an inventory of older and mature forests within the National Forest System;

(12) \$50,000,000 to develop and carry out activities and tactics for the maintenance and restoration of habitat conditions necessary for the protection and recovery of at-risk species on National Forest System land;

(13) \$50,000,000 to carry out post-fire recovery plans on National Forest System land that emphasize the use of locally adapted native plant materials to restore the ecological integrity of disturbed areas and do not include salvage logging; and

(14) \$50,000,000 to develop and carry out non-lethal activities and tactics to reduce human-wildlife conflicts on National Forest System land.

(b) PRIORITY FOR FUNDING.—For projects described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall prioritize for implementation projects—

(1) for which an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 through 4370m-12) has been completed;

(2) that are collaboratively developed; or

(3) that include opportunities to restore sustainable recreation infrastructure or access or